

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert

Recreation Information Update

April 27 – May 3, 2011

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm – Beginning May 1st 8:00am to 6:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads – SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are closed for the winter. SR 89 (Monitor Pass) is closed for the winter. For California highway conditions and construction schedules, call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or on the web at www.dot.ca.gov. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237), or visit the web site at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK road (SR270) is open; the last 1.5 miles before the park will remain closed due to mud. Visitors are welcome to walk the final distance. The June Lake Loop (SR158) is open. Rock Creek is open to the pack station. In Bishop Creek, SR 168 is scheduled to open Friday to Lake Sabrina and the South Lake road is open to Parchers. The Big Pine Canyon road is open. In the White Mountains, the road to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open to Sierra View. Big Pine and Onion Valley roads are open. Inyo County is working on Whitney Portal road and plans to open it on Friday.

Major roads through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. Travel on the North Pass road into Saline Valley is not advised due to poor road conditions. The South Pass road into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County due to washouts. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. Check the website at www.nps.gov/deva for conditions and road descriptions ("Plan Your Visit & Things To Do" section).

WEATHER: Fair weather mid week over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave region is the result of weak high pressure. A cold front will move over Northern California on Thursday and Friday, resulting in periods of partly cloudy skies, gusty winds and a chance of scattered showers over the mountains. Temperatures will be well below normal by Saturday. High pressure is expected to begin to build on Sunday, producing fair and warm weather by next week. Highs have been in the 30s in the mountains, mid 70s in the Owens Valley and upper 80s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the upper 60s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, the following Bishop Field office campgrounds are open: Tuttle Creek (fee area/no drinking water), Goodale Creek (fee/no drinking water) and the Pleasant Valley pit (fee/no drinking water). This summer local BLM campgrounds will be renovated which necessitates some closures. Goodale Creek will be closed starting 5/1 with Tuttle closing on 5/8. Crowley Lake campground will open on Friday, 4/29, with Horton Creek scheduled to open Friday, 5/13.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, some campgrounds are scheduled to open for the start of fishing season by Friday. Water may not be available at all locations (due to weather conditions). These sites include: Lone Pine, Grays Meadow, Grandview, Big Pine Creek, Lower Sage Flat, Upper Sage Flat, Big Trees, Forks, Four Jeffrey, Intake Two, French Camp, Tuff, Convict Lake, Gull Lake, June Lake, Oh! Ridge, Lower Lee Vining, Chris Flat (no water), Robinson Creek (no water) and Crags (no water).

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK – Yosemite Valley has sites open and reservable. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Wawona (SR 41), Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) and Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For Yosemite National Park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open campgrounds include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Stovepipe Wells, Emigrant (tent only/free) and Wildrose (free). Sunset and Texas Spring will close for the season on 5/2. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For camping information, visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/deva.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season opens Saturday, April 30 in the Eastern Sierra. These waters are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. Some fishy activities are going on almost everywhere in the Eastern Sierra to celebrate the opening of trout season; check with any local sporting goods store for planned community activities. The **BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has up-to-date fishing reports for many of the lakes and streams in the area, call 1-760-873-8405 for more information. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

To help prevent the spread of invasive mussels, including the quagga and zebra mussels that can impact the fishery and damage water systems, all boats, kayaks, and canoes planning to launch at Crowley Lake must be inspected and enter through the main gate at the South Landing. For more information about boat inspections, contact the LADWP at (760) 872-1104, or visit the Web site at www.LADWP.com/mussels.

WARNING: Snow may hamper access to some lakes and streams at the higher elevations. Please use caution on frozen lakes in the backcountry; recent weather conditions have made the ice "rotten" - unstable and dangerous.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 12 to 21 foot base. For lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com or call 1-888-766-9778.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow conditions, trail maps and avalanche risk; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm or call 1-760-924-5500. The **EASTERN SIERRA AVALANCHE CENTER (ESAC)** offers avalanche advisories and an on-line discussion center for the region; check the web site at www.esavalanche.org.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy and icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. The snow level on the Whitney trail is approximately 8,500 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 5,500 feet. Significant snowpack remains at higher elevations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas (starting 5/1). Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. The Whitney zone permit lottery is closed; any remaining spaces are available now for reservations (check the web). Day use in the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek is included in the Whitney Zone quota. For information on wilderness permits, including available reservation dates, an application form and fees, visit the Inyo National Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: The **42nd Annual Pilgrimage** to the **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** will be held on Saturday, April 30th at 12:00pm near the camp cemetery site. The keynote speaker at this year's event will be **Mako Nakagawa**, primary author of the *Power of Words* resolution. This resolution examines the terminology used to describe the camps and the experience of the Japanese American community as a whole with their imprisonment during WWII. The ceremony includes a performance by the **UCLA Kyodo Taiko**. Bring your own water, food and don't forget sunscreen! Other events are scheduled, including the Manzanar at Dusk (MADness) program at 5:00pm in the Lone Pine High School auditorium; for more information visit the Manzanar Committee web site at www.manzanarcommittee.org.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 3:00pm (weather permitting). Bring drinking water, food and plenty of warm clothes for a spring visit to Bodie.

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open 8:00am to 5:00pm, Thursday - Monday for information, a film presentation and displays.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for more information.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ranger talks and other interpretive programs are presented through Saturday, 4/30. Check at the Visitor Center, or www.nps.gov/deva for information. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 4/27/11kcw